

## **Publication**

University of Wollongong: 'Research & Innovation News' Magazine

## **Title**

Visiting Researcher: Helsinki in Winter

## **Story**

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PhD student Alexander Hayes recalls his recent trip to Aalto University, Helsinki Finland as Visiting Researcher investigating the socio-ethical impact of body wearable cameras.

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Moi!

A welcome reception from the Aalto University, Media Lab, Department of Media, School of Arts, Design and Architecture re-united me with Associate Professor Teemu Leinonen, my co-Supervisor as part of my research within UOW, Faculty of Informatics, School of Information Systems and Technology.

My brief two week visit funded principally by Aalto University and the University of Wollongong, FOI, SISAT provided me a vital window into the European perspective for my research under the Supervision of Associate Professor Katina Michael, University of Wollongong. The affordance to engage with colleagues and initiatives in an international setting by both Aalto and UOW has consolidated years of preparation and hardened my resolve to ensure my research project into wearable computing, information systems and society are internationally informed.

As a research group member I was immediately drawn into the final preparations and implementation of the Department of Media, Open Design Conference, March 4 - 6 along with a dynamic team of researchers and project team members who are part of the Learning Layers Project, a large-scale research project co-funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. The highlights of the conference (for me) definitely centred on the opportunity to engage with some of the worlds leaders of learning design as to emergent forms of collaborative computing poised to engage learners and educators alike within the construction and allied health sectors.

Braving -20 degrees celcius (plus wind chill factor) walks, a sauna with 25 other males and a cold dip via an ice hole in a frozen ocean provided me with the grist to continue to work virtually at nights and between other tasks on a research paper with three of the Aalto team which has been submitted for publication through the upcoming IEEE ISTAS13 event in Toronto, Canada on

June 27-29, 2013. I am the Publicity Chair for this event that is co-sponsored by the University of Wollongong.

A trip to Soumenlinna Island by ice-breaking ferry, sharing reindeer pizza and dark lagers with my incredibly generous host, Mari Tammisaari and the countless stories told and re-told with Aalto group staff, Merja Bauters, Jukka Purma, Tarmo Toikannen, Kiarri Nguya, and Eva Durall were the highlight of the social connection that UOW shares with Aalto. Deeply philosophical debates as to the value of data provenance in the Finnish culture, privacy, personal security and the future of learning in a networked world dominated lunches, dinners and one enlightening historical walk through the heart of Helsinki in the falling snow.

I also completed twelve (12) hour-long interviews with key Aalto staff including members of the Systems of Representation (Museums,digital cultural heritage etc.) team whilst at Aalto.

Take home messages?

Pack your thermals if you are travelling this time of year to Helsinki, steer clear of Aussie bars and be prepared to work hard and play hard amongst the snow and goodwill.